

(2) CONTENTS.—An eligible entity shall include in an application under paragraph (1)—

(A) a commitment from the industry partner of the eligible entity to collaborate with the eligible entity to develop a training program, including curricula and internships or apprenticeships;

(B) a description of how the eligible entity plans to use the covered grant, including the type of training program the eligible entity plans to develop;

(C) a plan for recruitment of students and potential students to participate in the training program;

(D) a plan to increase female student participation in the training program of the eligible entity; and

(E) a description of potential jobs to be secured through the training program, including jobs in the communities surrounding the eligible entity.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use a covered grant, with respect to the training program of the eligible entity, to—

(1) hire faculty members to teach courses in the training program;

(2) train faculty members to prepare students for employment in jobs related to the deployment of next-generation wired and wireless communications networks, including 5G networks, hybrid fiber-coaxial networks, and fiber infrastructure, particularly in—

(A) broadband and wireless network engineering;

(B) network deployment and maintenance;

(C) industry field activities; and

(D) cybersecurity;

(3) design and develop curricula and other components necessary for degrees, courses, or programs of study, including certificate programs and credentialing programs, that comprise the training program;

(4) pay for costs associated with instruction under the training program, including the costs of equipment, telecommunications training towers, laboratory space, classroom space, and instructional field activities;

(5) fund scholarships, student internships, apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship opportunities;

(6) recruit students for the training program; and

(7) support the enrollment in the training program of individuals working in the telecommunications industry in order to advance professionally in the industry.

(g) GRANT AWARDS.—

(1) DEADLINE.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which amounts are appropriated to the Fund pursuant to subsection (m), the Assistant Secretary shall award all covered grants.

(2) MINIMUM ALLOCATION TO CERTAIN ENTITIES.—The Assistant Secretary shall award not less than—

(A) 30 percent of covered grant amounts to historically Black colleges or universities; and

(B) 30 percent of covered grant amounts to Tribal Colleges or Universities.

(3) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—As part of the final rules issued under subsection (h), the Assistant Secretary shall develop criteria for evaluating applications for covered grants.

(4) COORDINATION.—The Assistant Secretary shall ensure that grant amounts awarded under paragraph (2) are coordinated with grant amounts provided under section 902 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260).

(5) CONSTRUCTION.—In awarding covered grants for training or education relating to construction, the Assistant Secretary may prioritize applicants that partner with—

(A) apprenticeship programs;

(B) pre-apprenticeship programs; or

(C) public 2-year community or technical colleges that have a written agreement with 1 or more apprenticeship programs.

(h) RULES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, after providing public notice and an opportunity to comment, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, shall issue final rules governing the Grant Program.

(i) TERM.—The Assistant Secretary shall establish the term of a covered grant, which may not be less than 5 years.

(j) GRANTEE REPORTS.—During the term of a covered grant received by an eligible entity, the eligible entity shall submit to the Assistant Secretary a semiannual report that, with respect to the preceding 6-month period—

(1) describes how the eligible entity used the covered grant amounts;

(2) describes the progress the eligible entity made in developing and executing the training program of the eligible entity;

(3) describes the number of faculty and students participating in the training program of the eligible entity;

(4) describes the partnership with the industry partner of the eligible entity, including—

(A) the commitments and in-kind contributions made by the industry partner; and

(B) the role of the industry partner in curriculum development, the degree program, and internships and apprenticeships; and

(5) includes data on internship, apprenticeship, and employment opportunities and placements.

(k) OVERSIGHT.—

(1) AUDITS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Commerce shall audit the Grant Program in order to—

(A) ensure that eligible entities use covered grant amounts in accordance with—

(i) the requirements of this section; and

(ii) the overall purpose of the Grant Program, as described in subsection (c); and

(B) prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the operation of the Grant Program.

(2) REVOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Assistant Secretary shall revoke a grant awarded to an eligible entity that is not in compliance with the requirements of this section or the overall purpose of the Grant Program, as described in subsection (c).

(l) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Each year, until all covered grants have expired, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) identifies each eligible entity that received a covered grant and the amount of the covered grant;

(2) describes the progress each eligible entity described in paragraph (1) has made toward accomplishing the overall purpose of the Grant Program, as described in subsection (c);

(3) summarizes the job placement status or apprenticeship opportunities of students who have participated in the training program of the eligible entity; and

(4) includes the findings of any audits conducted by the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce under subsection (k)(1) that were not included in the previous report submitted under this subsection.

(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund a total of \$100,000,000 for fiscal years 2022 through 2027, to remain available until expended.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Assistant Secretary may use not more than 2 percent of the amounts appropriated to the Fund for the administration of the Grant Program.

SA 2161. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amend-

ment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division D, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS TO RECEIVE PICK-SLOAN MISSOURI BASIN PROGRAM PUMPING POWER.

Section 5(a) of Public Law 89-108 (79 Stat. 435; 100 Stat. 419; 114 Stat. 2763A-284) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN IRRIGATION DISTRICTS TO RECEIVE PUMPING POWER.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible irrigation district’ means an irrigation district that is located in—

“(i) the test area referred to in paragraph (1); or

“(ii) an area within the 28,000-acre area described in paragraph (3) that is analyzed by the Secretary but not developed under that paragraph.

“(B) ELIGIBILITY.—An eligible irrigation district shall be eligible to receive Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power—

“(i) subject to any terms and at any rates established by the Secretary; and

“(ii) in accordance with a contract entered into under subparagraph (C).

“(C) CONTRACT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary may enter into a contract with an eligible irrigation district to provide Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power to the eligible irrigation district.

“(ii) REQUIREMENT.—No Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power may be delivered to an eligible irrigation district under this paragraph until the date on which a contract authorizing the delivery to the irrigation district is executed under clause (i).”.

SA 2162. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of division F, insert the following:

TITLE VI—TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY WORKFORCE

SEC. 60601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act”.

SEC. 60602. TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 344. TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘telecommunications interagency working